

## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (original) Method of controlling the level of an input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) read from an optical disc for generating an output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ), said method comprising:

- a step (101) of amplifying said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) by a gain factor ( $G$ ) for generating said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ),
- a step (102) of comparing said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) with a maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) and with a minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ),
- a first step (103) of setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to a value defined as the ratio between said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) and the level of said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) exceeds said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ),
- a second step (104) of setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to a value defined as the ratio between said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ) and the level of said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) drops below said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ),
- a third step (105) of setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to the value as previously set by said first and second steps (103, 104) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) does not exceed said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) nor drops below said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ).

2. (original) Method of generating an information signal indicating a defect of an optical disc, said method comprising:

- a step (101) of amplifying an input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) by a gain factor ( $G$ ) for generating an output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ),
- a step (102) of comparing said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) with a maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) and with a minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ),
- a first step (103) of setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to a value defined as the ratio between said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) and the level of said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) exceeds said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ),
- a second step (104) of setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to a value defined as the ratio between said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ) and the level of said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) drops below said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ),
- a third step (105) of setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to the value as previously set by said first and second steps (103, 104) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) does not exceed said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) nor drops below said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ),
- a step (106) of comparing said gain factor ( $G$ ) with a gain threshold ( $G_{th}$ ),
- a step (107) of generating said information signal having a first state ( $s1$ ) if said gain factor ( $G$ ) is below said gain threshold ( $G_{th}$ ), and a second state ( $s2$ ) if said gain factor ( $G$ ) is above said gain threshold ( $G_{th}$ ).

3. (original) System for controlling the level of an input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) read from an optical disc for generating an output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ), said system comprising:

- means (101) for amplifying said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) by a gain factor ( $G$ ) for generating said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ),
- means (102) for comparing said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) with a maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) and with a minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ),
- means (103) for setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to a value defined as the ratio between said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) and the level of said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) exceeds said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ),
- means (104) for setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to a value defined as the ratio between said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ) and the level of said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) drops below said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ),
- means (105) for setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to the value as previously set by said first and second means (103, 104) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) does not exceed said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) nor drops below said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ).

4. (original) Apparatus for reading an optical disc, said apparatus comprising a system for controlling the level of an input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) read from said optical disc for generating an output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ), said system comprising:

- means (101) for amplifying said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) by a gain factor ( $G$ ) for generating said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ),
- means (102) for comparing said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) with a maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) and with a minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ),
- means (103) for setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to a value defined as the ratio between said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) and the level of said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) exceeds said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ),
- means (104) for setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to a value defined as the ratio between said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ) and the level of said input readout signal ( $S_{in}$ ) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) drops below said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ),
- means (105) for setting said gain factor ( $G$ ) to the value as previously set by said first and second means (103, 104) if the level of said output readout signal ( $S_{out}$ ) does not exceed said maximum target level ( $I_{max\_target}$ ) nor drops below said minimum target level ( $I_{min\_target}$ ).

5. (currently amended) A computer program comprising code instructions for implementing the steps of the method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or~~ 2.